

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00554 111346Z

46

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2206

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0554

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MOHAMMED YUNIS AL-MASMARI PRONOUNCED INNOCENT

BY "PEOPLE'S COURT"

REF: TRIPOLI 511

ON MAY 10 "PEOPLE'S COURT" FINALLY ANNOUNCED ITS VERDICT
IN CASE OF FORMER ARMY OFFICERS ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION UNDER
OLD REGIME. UNDER RCC MEMBER HAWWADI, COURT BEGAN THESE
PROCEEDINGS IN MARCH 1974, AND AFTER FEW SESSIONS WENT INTO
LONG AND UNEXPLAINED RECESS WHICH LASTED MORE THAN A YEAR.
OF DEFENDANTS, HEADED BY FORMER KING IDRIS, SEVENTEEN WERE
FOUND GUILTY, AND SENTENCED TO PRISON TERMS OF UP TO SEVEN
YEARS, TERM GIVEN TO IDRIS HIMSELF. (IDRIS HAD PREVIOUSLY
BEEN CONDEMNED TO DEATH BY ANOTHER TRIBUNAL.) THIRTY-SIX
OTHERS OF FORMER ARMY OFFICERS WERE FOUND INNOCENT OF ALL
CHARGES. AMONG THIS LAST GROUP IS NAME OF MOHAMMED YUNIS AL-
MASMARI, WHOM WE BELIEVE TO BE MAN LIBYANS PROPOSED TO US AS
AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON ALMOST FOUR WEEKS AGO.
STEIN

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